Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any arrangement for monitoring incoming and outgoing calls from Srinagar (J&K State) to Delhi and other metropolitan cities and vice-versa;

(b) whether Government have observed any gross misuse of telepohone calls coming from Srinagar Exchange to other part of the country;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) what are the names of other States where the telephone calls are being monitored so as to check misuse of calls from telephone exchanges, particularly to metropolitan cities; and

(e) what is the extent of loss suffered by Government due to such misuse of calls in connivance with the telephone operators at various telephone exchanges in the country, during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Smooth flow of traffic and fault rectification of faulty channels is a continues process and the same is done for all routes including J & K also.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) As at (a) above.

(e) It is not possible to quantify extent of loss suffered by Government due to misuse of telephone facility.

Roberry in Post Office of Motihari in Bihar

5382. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minster of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the head Post Office at Motihari town in Bihar was looted by armed dacoits recently;

(b) if so,what are the details thereof; and the amount of losses caused; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to provide security cover to Post Office in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the night of 24/25-3-94 at about 2 A. M. more than 10 dacoits over-powered night guard and decamped with Rs. 8,43,680/- in cash and four Insured letters for Rs. 500/- after breaking open locks of the post office and Treasury.

(c) Department has reviewed the security measures in all post offices in Bihar. The I. G. of Police Muzaffarpur Range and the Commissiner Tirhut Division have been requested to provide adequate protection to the Govt. properties in the area. Superintendent of Police Motihari has also been requested to provide armed guards to Motihari HPO on regular basis.

New Telephone Exchanges in Rural and Tribal Areas in Gujarat

5383. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up new Telephone Exchanges in rural and tribal areas of Gujarat in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof with location and capacity; and

(c) by when these are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b)(i) 50 new telephone exchanges of capacity less than 100 lines each in rural/tribal areas of Gujarat are planned to be set up during 1994-95.

(ii) As per the existing policy of the Department, location of such exchanges would be decided on the basis of a minimum number of 10 registered paid demands.